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DE RUEHTH #1992 2771332
ZNR UUUUU ZZH (CCY ADX0160117 AMG5570 611)
O 041332Z OCT 07
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0444
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0244

UNCLAS ATHENS 001992

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDED SENSITIVE CAPTION)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL PGOV GR

SUBJECT: GREEK POSITION ON PRESSURING BURMA REGIME

REF: STATE 137644

¶1. (SBU) On October 2, PolCouns and PolOff delivered reftel points on Burma to First Counsellor Adam Adamidis, Asia-Oceania Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

¶2. (SBU) Adamidis confirmed the EU and Greece's general condemnation of the tactics used by the Burma regime, noting existing EU sanctions. He drew attention to the statement by Greek Foreign Ministry spokesman Koumoutsakos expressing concern at the escalation of the situation, condemning the regime's use of violence, and supporting UN Secretary General's rep Ibrahim Gambari's efforts. (Note: A day later, FM Bakoyannis also presented a declaration signed by 30 women members of parliament calling for the release of detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.)

¶3. (SBU) Adamidis also stated that further sanctions were being considered by the EU's Foreign Relations Counsellors Working Party (RELEX), to be discussed in the meeting of the Council of Ministers on October 15-16. While Greece's influence on the Burmese regime was minimal, he believed that common EU action could be effective. At the same time, he noted there could be some reluctance (including in the Greek MFA) to take a stance that could damage EU relations with ASEAN countries.

COUNTRYMAN